

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cosmetic composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.0001 to about 30% by weight of a salt of malonic acid which is present as a half neutralized and a fully neutralized acid in a molar ratio ranging from about 1000:1 to about 1:1000, respectively;
- (ii) from about 1 to about 99.9% by weight of a cosmetically acceptable carrier; wherein the composition exhibits a Flexibility Value greater than 1 in the Porcine Skin Test.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 2-1 wherein the molar ratio is about 2:1 to about 1:200.

Claim 4 (original): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the salt has a cationic counterion to malonate which is an inorganic cation selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium and combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the cationic counterion to malonate is an organic cation having from 2 to 1,000 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneimine, triethanolamine, diethanolamine, propanolamine, monoethanolamine, methylamine, ethylamine, propylamine, isopropylamine, butylamine, isobutylamine, t-butylamine, pentylamine, isopentylamine, hexylamine, cyclohexylamine,

cyclopentylamine, norbornylamine, octylamine, ethylhexylamine, nonylamine, decylamine, pyrrolidone, amino acids (lysine, arginine, alanine, glutamine, histidine, glycine), 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, dimethylethanolamine, tris(hydroxymethyl)amino methane and combinations thereof.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for controlling signs of aging comprising:

providing a cosmetic composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.0001 to about 30% by weight of a salt of malonic acid
which is present as a half neutralized and a fully neutralized acid in
a molar ratio ranging from about 1000:1 to about 1:1000,
respectively;
- (ii) from about 1 to about 99.9% by weight of a cosmetically acceptable carrier;

wherein the composition exhibits a Flexibility Value greater than 1 in the Porcine Skin Test; and

applying the cosmetic composition to the skin.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 6 wherein the signs of aging that are controlled are softness, suppleness and flexibility.

Claim 8 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 15%.

Claim 9 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight.

Claim 10 (new): The composition according to claim 1 wherein the salt of malonic acid has a cation selected from the group consisting of an ammonium, dimethylethanolammonium and tris(hydroxymethyl)methane ammonium salt.

Claim 11 (new): The method according to claim 6 wherein the molar ratio is about 2:1 to about 1:200.

Claim 12 (new): The method according to claim 6 wherein the malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.1% to about 15%.

Claim 13 (new): The method according to claim 6 wherein the malonic acid is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight.

Claim 14 (new): The method according to claim 6 wherein the salt of malonic acid has a cation selected from the group consisting of an ammonium, dimethylethanolammonium and tris(hydroxymethyl)methane ammonium salt.

Claim 15 (new): The method according to claim 6 wherein the salt has a cationic counterion to malonate which is an inorganic cation selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to claim 6 wherein the cationic counterion to malonate is an organic cation having from 2 to 1,000 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneimine, triethanolamine, diethanolamine, propanolamine, monoethanolamine, methylamine, ethylamine, propylamine, isopropylamine, butylamine, isobutylamine, t-butylamine, pentylamine, isopentylamine, hexylamine, cyclohexylamine, cyclopentylamine, norbornylamine, octylamine, ethylhexylamine, nonylamine, decylamine, pyrrolidone, amino acids (lysine, arginine, alanine, glutamine, histidine, glycine), 2-amino-

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2-methyl-1-propanol, dimethylethanolamine, tris(hydroxymethyl)amino methane and combinations thereof.